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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHA POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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KCC

ANTIRACIST STUDENTS' DEFIANCE EXPOSES LIBERAL FASCIST DANGER

BROOKLYN, NY, January 3—After weeks of discussing the politics and history of sit-ins and occupations, more than 20 students marched to the administrative building today to occupy the office of the "Director of Student Engagement and Community Standards." The attempted occupation was in protest of the ongoing racist charges made by the campus and signed by this director against four Kingsborough Community College (KCC) students. When we surrounded the office we discovered it had closed as KCC's administrators were working remotely, but this disappointment was only temporary. As the semester ended, antiracists and members of the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP) celebrated a semester of fightback, and recruited more students into our growing club!

Throughout our past two study groups, continuing attacks from the campus administration have sharpened the discussions into capitalist dictatorship and state power (see CHALLENGE, 12/14/22). Students, staff, faculty, and PLP members are fighting against the KCC administration, campus police, and NYPD because a student was tackled by campus police after being harassed by a racist student using the n-word (see CHALLENGE, 11/30/22). Since our last article, the NYPD has failed to appear at the trial of a student charged with disorderly conduct. At the same time, KCC has brought academic charges against four students, including the student who was tackled and the Black student who was called the n-word.

With our core of Black, Latin, Asian, and white student emerging communist leadership one of our key readings has been Vladimir Lenin's speech, "The State." A new young comrade condensed and edited it for readability. The political leadership of our study group has had a direct impact on the sharpening struggle as the KCC administration attempts to drown the struggle in lies, liberalism, and one of the liberal racist's favorite weapons, "civil discourse."

Questions our study group have grappled with are over reform and revolution, and where change comes from: Does change come from young, reform-minded politicians? Or does it come from the masses? Or a mix of both? Why do we need a Party?

"Civil discourse" = liberal fascism

Within the student government (SGA), proce-

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OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Führers Biden & Adams

Workers face liberal fascism, need communist revolution

The recent wave of racist attacks on immigrant and homeless workers is exposing the U.S. bosses' drive toward liberal fascism. As the world economy shrinks (imf.org, 7/22), the international crisis of capitalism is nearing a breaking point. As the U.S. loses ground to imperialist arch-rival China, and the war in Ukraine brings tensions with Russia to a boil, U.S. rulers will be forced to ditch their mask of liberal democracy and its charade of "human rights." They will have no choice. To protect their profits and prepare for World War III, the liberal finance capital bosses must crush their capitalist competition—the openly racist, "America First" isolationists fronted by the likes of Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis. At the same time, these liberal fascists know they need to build a mass patriotic movement, even as tens of millions are denied the most basic human needs: healthcare, housing, adequate nutrition. To stop workers from rebelling as capitalist society falls down around our ears, the liberal bosses are taking a page from the Nazi playbook. They are working to divide the working class by scapegoating groups they deem expendable.

On the Texas border, liberal President Joe Biden is breaking the bosses' own rules for asylum and leaving migrating workers and children in the cold. In New York City, liberal Mayor Eric Adams has declared that homeless people can be detained and forced into hospitals that lack enough beds or staffing, even if they pose no threat to themselves or others (npr.org, 11/30/22). Trusting the Democratic Party liberal fascists as "lesser evils" will continue to devastate the international working class. We must see these murderous misleaders for what they are, an even greater danger than Trump and the Republicans. The liberals are more deceiving and, at least for now, more powerful in wielding state terror.

Our class is in a life-and-death struggle, and we cannot be fooled: There are no good capitalists! Our only future lies in communist revolution, in a society run to meet workers' needs.

Homeless workers: a scapegoat for a system in crisis

The most liberal city in the U.S. is also a world leader for inequality. In New York, out-of-control housing prices combined with starvation wages and a gutted public health system have driven the number of homeless people to the highest level since the Great Depression of the 1930s (npr.org, 5/13/22). There are 65,000 people in the city's overcrowded, chaotic shelter system, and thousands more living on the streets (NYC Coalition for the Homeless). Racism is a core component of the homeless crisis; 89 percent of this population is Black or Latin.

Meanwhile, thousands of offices in New York sit empty. Instead of converting these spaces into homes for those without them, the bosses provoke fear of the homeless by screaming about crime and erratic behavior by people with mental illness (nyclu.org, 12/30/22). Adams is siccing his mad dog kkkops to sweep people off the streets and forcibly take them into custody. This is a "solution" driven by the needs of the real estate and tourism bosses.

There is no homeless crime wave in New York—no crime wave at all, in fact. The city's murder rate is roughly the same as it was in 2009, a small fraction of the numbers in the 1980s (Bloomberg.com, 7/29/22). But you would never know that from listening to ex-cop Adams, or to the bosses' media.

Migrant workers punished for capitalism's crimes

Liberal darling Joe Biden entered the White House vowing a "fair and humane" approach to immigration that would "reassert America's commitment to asylum seekers and refugees." Two years later, Biden's "decision to continue–and even expand–some of Trump's harshest policies has left many migration and human rights advocates disappointed" (The New Humanitarian, 1/22/22). Atrocities on the U.S.-Mexican border mount by the day. In 2021, Biden's horse-mounted Border Patrol Gestapo beat back Haitian migrants by whipping them with their reins. More recently, in border cities in Texas and Mexico, thousands of migrants have no option but to live on the streets (npr.org, 12/23/22). Biden administration officials have privately pushed to keep enforcing Title 42, an old public health law that Trump cynically used to expel workers seeking asylum without granting them a hearing (New York Times, 12/20/22).

Fascism is the liberals' final solution

The Nazi death camps, the German fascists' "final solution," followed the brutal logic of capitalism in crisis. When the bosses' profit system starts breaking down, they become desperate to keep it afloat—at any and all costs. It's the crisis of capitalism that's driving the rise in homelessness and the epidemic of mental health problems. It's the crisis of capitalism that's forcing millions around the world to flee their homes in the face of war and deadly poverty. The liberal rulers can't reform their way out of these disasters; it's the necessities of their system that create them in the first place.

Biden and Adams are reformist stooges on the payroll of the finance capitalists, the dominant wing of the U.S. ruling class. These liberal politicians use the fear of Trump to scare the working class into looking the other way as migrant workers and the homeless are terrorized. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and her fake-left Squad railed against Trump for ripping children from their parents' arms and putting them in cages in Texas. Now these great progressives sit on their hands as their liberal fascist masters do the same as Trump and worse. If we let them get away with these outrages today, tomorrow they'll be targeting the rest of our class.

Only communist revolution can defeat the bosses

The revolutions led by communists in Russia and China proved that society can be led by and for the working class. The capitalist bosses can stay in power only if the working class allows it. Of late we've seen promising sparks of rebellion. Tens of millions marched after the murder of George Floyd. Black and white miners in Alabama broke through the bosses' racism to go on strike together. In Colombia, thousands rose up in a general strike against a tax reform to impoverish the working class and prop up the rulers' failing system.

These inspirational battles and many more show the power of our class. They also reveal our main weakness. In each case, workers stopped fighting and retreated into lesser evilism. When workers stay wedded to the bosses' rotten ideas, when they lack confidence that our class can run society, they are sunk by their own defeatism. When workers swallow the liberal bosses' soft words and crocodile tears, they become complicit in genocide.

Some say that capitalism is always bad. They say that people are always being bombed or jailed or put on the streets to die, and that the world is essentially no different than it was twenty or fifty years ago. But that is a defeatist position. It's built upon the lie that nothing ever really changes—and that, by extension, nothing can ever change. By contrast, a communist analysis of history points to moments when capitalism falls into periods of extreme crisis. When our class faces greater dangers from rising fascism. When we have a greater opportunity to advance the historic struggle for communism. Progressive Labor Party believes we have entered such a moment of reckoning. Will we drift along with the liberal fascist tide, or will we break our chains and fight for communist revolution? There is no in between. Join us!✪

Reds at the Black Board:

Working-class fightback keeps students safe

Newark, NJ - Over the last few weeks, workers and students, along with members from the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), have shown sparks of fury against the racist liberal bosses at Barringer High School and the Newark School District, for firing a Latin, antiracist teacher over attending a rally with his students in New York City (NYC). The rally was in solidarity with the mother of Raymond Chaluisant, a young man murdered by the police last July.

When teachers are punished for encouraging their students to be militant in the face of racism, that is a dangerous sign for our class. This is especially the case at Barringer High School. Whenever liberal run institutions lead the charge to fire and isolate antiracist teachers or suspend militant antiracist students, these attacks are warning of more intense fascist discipline to come. The bosses use such attacks to quash multiracial, antiracist fightback wherever it flourishes, be it in our schools, jobs, or on the streets.

In an education system that both students and teachers recognize as racist and mediocre, building communism means nurturing anti-racist, working-class teachers that teach students about how the real world works under capitalism and why working-class solidarity is crucial for everyone's survival. We must defend our anti-racist, working-class teachers and students!

We keep us safe

The ruling class drives home the idea that a bigger police state is what keeps the working class "safe." We have seen this idea carried out in schools. From metal detectors to cops in schools, the working class is told to trust the bosses when it comes to our safety. But during the George Floyd protests of 2022, one common slogan was "We Keep Us Safe" in response to the police terror. It is with this idea of working-class solidarity that antiracist teachers organize every day.

With this antiracist attitude, nine students chose to go across the Hudson River on their day off from school and stand with the Chaluisant family against police brutality. Even though the students and their parents didn't personally know this family, they still chose to stand with them in their fight against police terror. The bosses attempted to justify their firing of the teacher by stating that he created "unsafe conditions" for students. The reality is that this teacher's classroom exemplifies the kind of safety that all students deserve. Last year this same teacher got written up because he allowed his students to stay in his warm classroom before school during the winter months. The administration would rather have them freezing outside in the cold. This was also the teacher who organized groups of other teachers to deliver food to families isolated during the pandemic.

The strengthening of the working class in fighting back against racism and for a communist world is the ONLY security that we need for ourselves and our future.

Keeping us safe through base building

After the teacher was attacked, he had the confidence to reach out to the parents of all nine students and they gladly opened up their homes. These families agreed that protecting this

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Lessons from the struggle: 'KCC mirrors capitalist society'

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On the last day of school, students occupy administration building, demanding that racist charges be dropped.

dures, paperwork, and "rules of order" exist and are enforced strictly. Any deviation from these rules can discredit any students petitioning for change or the SGA's position itself. KCC President Claudia V. Schrader and the administration doubled down on emphasizing "public order" and "civility," holding campus-wide virtual town hall meetings to discuss the antiracist students' perceived disrespect for civil discourse. Of course they only allowed supporters of the racist administration to speak. Meanwhile, the campus police make up new rules to harass antiracist students in the Common Ground club daily.

"Civility" and "public order" are forms of discipline that the capitalist class' liberal lap dogs are attempting to impose on our students — what communists identify as early stages of fascism. SGA, the University Student Senate (USS), University Faculty Senate, and College Council enforce decisions made by the ruling class-controlled CUNY Board of Trustees and executed by servants like Schrader. SGA and USS condition students into adopting bourgeois manners of struggle — like having patience in the face of racist injustice, not speaking out during meetings, accepting and resigning to bureaucracy, and using "proper" language. For example, SGA members were instructed by the administration not to use the word "tackle" when filling out paperwork on the student tackled by racist campus police, as it was "too provocative."

Liberals have been and are the main danger

Our study group reflected on these political disagreements, which led to sharp tactical disagreements in the struggle. One student summarized the disagreement as between "Malcolm X vs. Martin Luther King, Jr," characterizing the disagreement as one group of students favoring breaking the college's rules and others wanting to follow the rules. The reality is that the bosses want the students to be divided and pointedly attack militant antiracists.

At our next Party study group, along with Lenin, we read a selection of MLK's Letter from Birmingham Jail. PLP criticizes elements of MLK's religious-based pacifism, especially his reliance on support from liberal Democrats and the capitalist-controlled media. Often MLK's insisted on a less violent way of fighting back; he was much more insistent on working within the system, focusing on reform struggles. This reformist leadership weakens the fight to destroy racism once and for all. Our Pary's analysis is that only a mass working-class communist revolution can end capitalism, racism, and imperialism.

In the *Letters from Birmingham Jail* MLK clearly states that we live in an inherently racist society and racist rules and laws must be broken. He warns that those who claim to agree with the goals of protest but are more interested in "public order" than justice —liberals— are potentially a greater obstacle to progress than open racists like the KKK.

Elections: heads they win, tails we lose!

KCC's administration soon resolved these debates for us by holding a sham election. SGA officers typically serve a full-year term once elected. One SGA officer resisted campus police requests for student life to turn over our antiracist club's membership lists (after the campus police claimed they felt harassed!). The officer also resisted the administration's pressure on the student government to dissolve our club. After the administration tried unsuccessfully to convince the other SGA officers to impeach this militant antiracist officer, a surprise second election was announced three days before the last weeks of the semester, with most students not knowing.

The antiracist SGA officer only learned about the election the moment it happened. Out of 7,259 eligible students, thirteen students came and voted for the administration's favored candidate— and the antiracist SGA member was voted out of office.

In many ways, KCC mirrors capitalist society at large: the bosses use democracy to maintain the illusion of a neutral state apparatus and deny the reality of their violent racist capitalist dictatorship. The bosses picked this fight, and it's a fight they're gonna get! We welcome our new comrades, and fight on to May Day✪

To keep students safe, smash profit system

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antiracist teacher was important. This reinforced the idea that trust between teachers and parents is safety we must build without asking the school bosses that divide us for permission. Students have committed to sharing leaflets about fighting back inside of the school even though the teacher is not there.

This demonstrates the level of work this teacher has done to build a base with students. These growing concentrations of united workers terrify racist bosses. In a community meeting, a multiracial and multigenerational group of former and current students and workers from the Newark School District, along with other community organizers and youth workers, came together, determined to figure out: How do we use this struggle to get students and parents to organize to improve school conditions everywhere? How do we turn this attack into an opportunity to expose the limits of capitalism in meeting our needs? When asked about organizing a student walkout, a freshman student asked, "What is it?" Someone else responded, "

A walkout is when a group of students collectively decide to walk out of a school building at an agreed-upon time without permission in order to demand something from the school administration. Back in high school, I had been in several walkouts in response to my school being stripped of things we needed." Given the chance to think collectively, this exchange of experiences between all of these working-class people gave us a huge victory. That freshman student was won to be a part of a new defense committee along with others present to keep this fightback going.

The struggle ahead

It is not a coincidence that Newark Public Schools are firing this antiracist teacher for building up a base of anti-racist students while attacks on Black and Latin students continue to go unchecked. Students at Newark School of Global Studies recently spoke at a Board of Education meeting about the unchecked racism that targets Black students at the school (Chalkbeat, 12/15/22). An elementary school in the Ironbound of Newark, one of the most racist sections of the city, was recently sued by a parent for attacks on her student who is one of the three percent of Black students in the school (nj.com, 12/22/22). Students at the school still don't have access to fountains and struggle to learn in overcrowded classrooms. The attack by these liberal fascists against these teachers is to send a message to other teachers - don't organize and fight - be quiet and teach the curriculum. This gives us a picture that this fight must spread to other schools in the districts.

Revolutionary communist workers must build unbreakable bonds within the working class to transform any attack by the bosses into another nail in the coffin of their system. We must continue building this and other fights in the bosses' courts, schools, streets, and social media. Depending on the bosses to keep us safe is deadly. Only we, the working class, can keep us safe.✪

40-Years of Struggle in APHA

Rx: working-class mutiracial unity

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cape from the American South. In the early 20th century, U.S. ruling-class scientists developed the racist pseudoscience of eugenics, on which the Nazis later based their racist mass murders. Again in the 1990s, biological determinism reappeared in the U.S. in the form of the Violence Initiative, which tried to argue that crime comes from abnormalities in the brains of Black boys. Columbia University and the National Institute of Mental Health began doing spinal taps while studying young Black boys whose brothers were in jail to prove this false notion. PLP leaped into action and demanded that the APHA call for an end to racist research. The campaigns within and outside the APHA forced a debate on the issue at a major session attended by thousands. A PLP member joined renowned Marxist biologist Richard Lewontin on the panel in not only exposing the so-called science as nonsense but also clarifying capitalism's need to pretend that social problems are due to the biological defects of its most oppressed members (see CHALLENGE, 8/5/2021). Today's medical emphasis on mental health needs under the stressors of Covid-19 similarly tries to obscure the capitalist determinants of anxiety, depression, and opioid use. In a worker-led, communist society, the needs of our class would be put first and treating the health of workers would be done in a holistic way.

Stomping out racism and sexism

The "War on Drugs"was an attack on Black workers in the U.S. that took a particularly vicious turn with the emergence of Children Requiring a Caring Kommunity (CRACK) that appeared in Washington DC in 2000. It targeted Black women who were substance users. Founded by Barbara Harris and backed by right-wing think tanks like the Heritage Foundation, CRACK offered women using drugs $200 if they chose sterilization or long-acting contraception. Volunteers rode in police cars to locate women in Black neighborhoods saying, "Don't let a pregnancy interfere with your drug habit." CRACK promoted racist eugenics by limiting the reproduction of poor women and contributed to the media's image of "crack babies" as being hopelessly damaged – another myth weaponized against Black workers. In Washington, DC, PLP participated in a broad coalition of public health activists in reproductive rights, women's health, anti-racism, and harm reduction. The coalition held forums reaching over 150 people in the city, demanded Metro remove racist CRACK ads from buses (they didn't), launched a petition campaign, and drove CRACK out of town. At the APHA, PLP members drafted a resolution against CRACK, leading the APHA's Executive Director to compare CRACK to Hitler on national TV. CRACK retaliated with a lawsuit. The APHA members overwhelmingly passed a resolution condemning CRACK and its ideology due to PLP's work. This legacy of fascist ideology in modern dress was defeated by multiracial unity and political education with both community members and public health professionals.

NO to racist police violence

Communists in PLP have helped lead many of the struggles on the street against racist police. Demands for justice for the police murders of Tyrone West in Baltimore, Shantel Davis in New York City, Archie Elliot in the DC area, and Alex Flores in Los Angeles have been years-long struggles. Communists in APHA brought this struggle into the public health arena in 2015 and in 2017 by introducing a policy proposal "Law Enforcement Violence Is a Public Health Issue." After three years of debate and protests, this resolution finally passed at the annual meeting despite the opposition of APHA leaders who are pro-capitalist supporters of the bosses' Democratic Party. The published resolution has helped in the campaigns against racist police murders and has helped our public health friends understand the role of the capitalist state. Public health workers often work within the criminal legal system and some did not want to hurt their relationships with the police. But now more workers understand through these struggles of communist workers challenging police terror that capitalism and the police are enemies of public health and are more willing to speak out.

We have followed this victory with a policy on prison abolition and protests against ICE attacks on immigrants. Keeping up the pressure within public health continues through our work in APHA and other public health advocacy groups.

Fighting racism vital to workers' health

Communists know that there is only one human race and that racism is used to separate workers from bonding together to destroy capitalism. When we study racism in public health, we see that racist policies and practices make Black and Latin workers less healthy. For example, lived experiences of racism cause many infant and pregnancy-related deaths and more high blood pressure.

PLP has contributed to this understanding in work with other antiracist researchers leading to major publications and the widely distributed video "Unnatural Causes" by California Newsreel. Thus we continue to expose the capitalist misuse of genetics to attack Black, Native American, and Latin workers and to argue that our job as medical and public health workers is to build a militant multiracial force. Like Marx and Engels, Progressive Labor Party calls on workers to build a party and fight for a communist revolution. Antiracist class struggle is essential for the health of all. The mass movements against racism in the U.S. improved healthcare services and made kidney dialysis, Medicare, and Medicaid possible for millions of workers of all races. But we must take the struggle all the way to revolution for a society that values the health of the public and not the profits of the ruling class.

These highlights only scratch the surface of decades of communist struggle in this mass organization. Public health comrades also fight around international issues in the APHA, so stay tuned for future articles on how our collective is addressing imperialism, war and global vaccine justice.✪

Reds vs Eviction Part 6:

Brown Squire, a "solid-red" communist

Southside Chicago circa 1930s. What the bosses condemned as a slum was a breeding ground for communists like Squire.

The following is part six of a seven-part series reprinted and lightly edited from the communist newspaper Daily Worker in September-October, 1932, written by famous communist Mike Gold. The series was titled, "Negro Reds of Chicago."

Workers here are referred to as Black instead of the original "Negro" to reflect our antiracist principles as well as the linguistic shifts that occurred over decades of antiracist class struggle.

Communists have a long history of fighting against racist attacks on our class. One such fight was against landlords and evictions. In the early 1930s, amid Jim Crow segregation, a Great Depression with record unemployment levels that sank the working class—particularly Black workers living in the urban industrial core—into deeper poverty and despair, the Communist Party in the U.S. (CPUSA) was fighting for revolution inside U.S. borders. This period was a golden age of class-conscious fightback when communist ideas were popular and gripped the imaginations of the working class. Under the leadership of the CPUSA, workers organized militant housing councils, tenant unions that led bold actions that weakened the power of profit gluttonous landlords.

Today our class is in a different period marked by increasing volatility. We are choked by record-high inflation, rent hikes, food price gouging compounded by stagnant wages, high unemployment, and an eviction crisis worsened by a still-raging global pandemic. Though the CPUSA is a shell of its former self, decaying into a toothless, reformist party, its history provides valuable lessons for us today.

This series highlights this antiracist revolutionary fightback and contains kernels of working-class wisdom.

Visiting comrade Squire in his home

Another ex-soldier and South Side communist is that remarkable person, Brown Squire. I shall never forget the afternoon I spent in his home.

It's a bit tricky for whites to visit the south side. The police roam these streets ceaselessly in their squad cars. They pick up all whites who don't look like landlords, installment agents or other exploiters. Then a visit to the police station, a few hours of questions, clubs, fists, etc. It has happened often.

One of these squad cars filled with beefy brutes rounded the corner just as we ducked into Brown Squire's home.

Manly and attractive, one of those calm, smiling giants, it was good to see Comrade Squire. He was dressed in a khaki shirt, one of his seven kids on his powerful arm. Behind him, on a battered dresser stood a bust of Lenin. In the bookcase one saw *Daily Workers,* pamphlets, books.

All this in a typical Chicago slum, in a ruined shanty facing out on a backyard piled with a hill of the most amazing garbage. Signs of the new age: Lenin in the steel mills, Lenin in the stockyards, Lenin hovering over workers' children playing on a garbage dump in Chicago.

Brown Squire fought in France for two years and eight months. He was a good soldier, a born leader, and rose from the ranks to return as a second lieutenant.

Yes, I was a good instrument for the capitalists," he smiled, "a first-class soldier. You can still blindfold me, throw all the parts of a machine gun on the floor, and I will reassemble it by touch.

Lieutenant Squire came back from the war in 1919, believing he'd won his freedom. A month later, the race riots broke out.

"I'm a communist now"

I can understand them, now that I'm a Communist. They were part of the capitalist strategy, by which they tried to separate the white and [Black] soldiers and workers. But then I was bitter. I fought in the riots; some of us captured guns from the lynchers and barricaded this street. No lyncher could enter it; many tried, but failed.

Then he shared, with most of his race in America, the years of the Garvey mirage. When he came out of that, he didn't know where to turn. One day he saw a parade with banners against lynching. He was still bitter, couldn't believe that whites would fight for such a cause. So he began to study this thing, "to see whether the Communists really meant it." After two years he decided that they meant it, and joined the party.

I was one of the first [Black workers] in the party then. We were isolated, the cops singled us out. I can remember my first arrest. They almost tore off one ear, and shut my left eye. They stomped on my bare feet with their boots, and almost broke my bones. They burned my body with cigar butts. Yes, they like to kill me. They wanted me to say I'd go to no more Communist meetings. But I would not say it. It was pretty bad, comrades. I lay in bed for a week afterward, coughing up blood.

"But it made a solid red out of me."

That was on March 6, 1929. Since then Squire has been arrested at least a hundred times for his speeches and other activities. He is a leader in the fight against evictions, and in the Workers' Ex-Servicemen's League. This day of our visit was typical of all his busy days. He had just come from a meeting of vets. The bonus marchers needed food and tobacco, and he had been collecting nickels and dimes.

This afternoon he was collecting signatures for the Communist election campaign. He had already signed up eight blocks in his house-to-house canvass. At 5 o'clock he was due to speak in Ellis Park, at a demonstration against the Republican Presidential convention, at which the [Black] delegates were jim-crowed. In the evening he was booked to speak in a [Black] church on communism.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

In 'class' struggle: Unpacking "Violence"

I teach social studies to high school students and I have learned that before we teach historical content it is important to have a conversation with students about violence.

The very first unit that I taught covered the French Revolution, and when we discussed the Reign of Terror I asked my students whether or not they believed that these policies were justified. The majority of the class responded "no" emphatically citing the violence of the Jacobin government.

I realized then that school and media tend to give us a specific perception of violence that highlights interpersonal violence and neglects structural violence. Even property damage may be constituted as "violent" in our popular conception, but poverty, surveillance, policing, and austerity rarely are.

I asked my students what violence is and they gave me lots of examples. Fighting someone, hitting, punching, and shooting is violent. Even words can be violent, they pointed out. I tried to get them to come up with a definition of violence and they agreed that violence is the act of hurting people, but disagreed on whether violence has to be intentional or not. Can policies be violent? Yes, they agreed, they can. What about the existence of homelessness or denying medical care to those without health insurance?

The questions led to lively debate and the class had mixed responses. Students do not need to agree with each other or me, but we should challenge them to think beyond liberal conceptions of violence that erase the state as an actor.

Oftentimes "violence" is ascribed to the reaction to poor conditions, but not to the people and policies that created poor conditions themselves. The police are not violent, but rioters are. The monarchy isn't violent per se, but revolutionaries definitely are. It is important to point out these hypocrisies to students and make sure that topics surrounding resistance and revolution are properly contextualized within the material conditions they occurred in.

I am about to teach about the Bolshevik Revolution and the Soviet Union (USSR), a topic that students are likely to have a lot of preconceptions about. I will need to return to this lesson on violence before I teach this topic, and I urge other teachers to broach this idea in class too!

★★★★★

Red Reads: 100-page impression…

With the intention of soon writing a full review I wanted to share first and strong impressions from the first 100 pages of Celeste Ng's Our Missing Hearts.

The new novel, released in 2022, has been met with much mainstream fanfare.

Self-described as a novel about the "…unbreakable love between a mother and child in a society consumed by fear…" Ng's book takes place in a dystopian U.S. amidst what can only be described as liberal-fascist (see glossary, page 6) late-stage fascism.

The characters exist in a "fictional" version of the U.S. that is ruled by the "fictional" PACT.

PACT is defined as "…more than a law…a promise we make to each other: a promise to protect our American ideals and values…" and is responsible for disappearing anyone who revolts, rebels, or challenges the ideals of PACT.

Based on an early impression I suspect this book is written and championed as a warning cry should democracy not be protected, a rationalization for lesser evil politics.

But what the readers and maybe even the author can't quite see is this is a road map, a foretelling of what's to come BECAUSE of lesser-evil politics (see editorial, page 2).

Progressive Labor Party has warned that this is where the road to voting leads.

Is Our Missing Hearts actually the world Big Fascists have dreamed up?

Stay tuned as this red reads on.

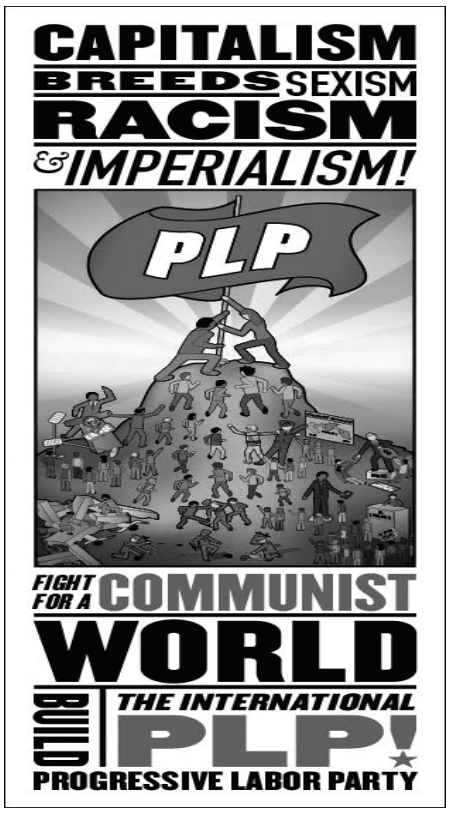
★★★★★

New year, more communism

New Year's Day, New York and New Jersey Progressive Labor Party members and friends gathered to share uplifting experiences. Reflecting on the year and hopeful for the future, conversations on what it means to be committed to communism, politics and the Party challenged me to think of how I am embodying the politics and struggles beyond events to a more holistic practice in every aspect of my life. Games, music, laughter, and the spirit of hope and the wholesomeness of children's joy filled the afternoon and night.

Thank you PLP for providing a space for such radical joy and community.

★★★★★



CORRECTION: The year-end review in the previous issue (1/4) made a serious error. As it recapped all the international fightbacks, the article unintentionally failed to mention the California area that has been a model for mass struggle and base building. Los Angeles has been featured prominently in our newspaper throughout the 25 issues of 2022, as years prior. Among its fight against housing, healthcare, and more, LA workers and members provided key communist leadership in the antiracist movement against police terror. We apologize for this omission.

Gascon queremos respuestas! WANT ANSWERS
JUSTICE FOR DAVID FLORES
JAIL KILLER COPS!
CHARGE THE COPS
GASCON QUEREMOS JUSTICIA POR LO QUE NOS PROMETIO

Pictured above: Flores family and friends rallying to demand justice for Alex last November.

GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

NYT strike uncovers a newspaper unfit for workers

New York City—For the first time in over 40 years, over 1,100 New York Times journalists and staff walked off the job in a one-day strike for a major labor dispute. more than 1,100 unionized Times employees walked off the job today in a 24-hour strike. The NYT Guild represents journalists, editors, advertising sales, business staff and security guards who have been without a new contract since March 2021 (NYT, 12/7). The workers struck against the biggest liberal mouthpiece for the main wing of the U.S. ruling class. As long as capitalism rules, media workers won't control the narrative. For workers to own our labor, we need to smash this profit-based system. This capitalist rag is unfit for workers.

Workers make the news. With communist revolution, we can own it.

Good on paper? Trash in reality

NYT workers were joined by a delegation of striking UAW workers from HarperCollins who have been on strike against the publisher for three weeks, striking Guild members from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, who have been on strike for a month, as well as members of the National Writers Union, CWA, and Teamster truck drivers who refused to cross the picket lines.

One of the main issues is the company's racist performance rating system and the demand for a more integrated newsroom. In a study released last August, the union found that, "white Guild members were more likely to get the top ratings, while Black and Latin members were more likely to get the lowest two ratings" (NYT, 12/7). Another issue is a safe post-pandemic return-to-work policy.

After decades of cutting back on wages, pensions, and healthcare, the NYT is making bank in a media market that has been facing massive cutbacks. The Times made over $300 million in operating profits this year, offered shareholders a big stock buyback and gave big raises to their executives. Yet, Times Chief Executive Meredith Kopit Levien cries that it's not "what it used to be" (AP News, 12/8). The company hired scabs and international workers to deliver its content.

As capitalism continues to devolve into crisis after crisis, more and more workers may gain class consciousness. The NYT institution is the epitome of liberal democratic ideals, promoting themselves as a beacon of truth in the chaos. Yet, it can't provide basic conditions for its workers? The company touts worker-friendly ideas, but the strike exposes the hollowness and hypocrisy of this capitalist institution. In essence, as long as media is owned by the profit-making class, media workers are just as expendable as every other worker.

Media, an industry of class struggle

The media industry has become a hotbed of class struggle, the result of massive consolidation and cutbacks. About 25 percent of all newsroom jobs were lost during the pandemic and about 2,000 local media outlets have closed, being replaced by huge conglomerates and even Artificial Intelligence producing some sports articles. These vast "news deserts" have added to the sea of misinformation and have aided groups like QAnon and various fascist militias. The News Guild (TNG) and other unions have organized tens of thousands of media workers in the past few years and the number of strikes and job actions are increasing. Staff at Reuters and several Gannett papers are also preparing for strikes.

Can these mostly young "white-collar" workers, along with striking part-time faculty at the New School in NY and 48,000 graduate student workers in California, represent the beginning of sharpening class war? From railroad workers to Amazon and Starbucks workers, there is a stirring among the masses. In NYC, contracts are expiring among CUNY faculty, which is two-thirds adjuncts, and transit workers.

As the class struggle sharpens, Progressive Labor Party has the responsibility to turn class struggle into grounds for revolutionary communist ideas. PLP will have to be embedded in these workplaces and among these workers, to move workers past the Democratic Party treadmill of reform, and onto the path of communist revolution. Slowly but surely, this is taking place.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Racism in medicine has long history

New England Journal of Medicine, 9/8/22–On May 23, 1968, Howard Goldman, director of the New York Bureau of X-Ray Technology, acknowledged that x-ray technicians routinely exposed Black patients to doses of radiation that were higher than those [w]hite patients received…as x-ray technology developed in the early 20th century, false beliefs about biologic differences between Black and [w]hite people affected how doctors used this technology.

Ideas about racial differences in bone and skin thickness appeared in the 19th century and remained widespread throughout the 20th. Theodor Waitz's 1863 Introduction to Anthropology asserted, for instance, that "The skeleton of the Negro is heavier, the bones thicker." Such claims reflected both beliefs about behaviors attributed to Black people (e.g., violence) and the interests of White scientists and slave owners who justified slavery.

The belief that Black people have denser bones, more muscle, or thicker skin led radiologists and technicians to use higher radiation exposure during x-ray procedures. A physician in 1896 asserted that "black being perfectly opaque," black skin would "offer some resistance to cathode rays."...In the 1950s and 1960s, x-ray technologists were told to use higher radiation doses to penetrate Black bodies.

Palestinians look for leadership

Times of Israel, 12/15/22– 72 percent of Palestinians support the creation of additional armed groups in the West Bank akin to the Lion's Den terror group that operates against Israel, according to a new poll…The Palestinian Authority (PA) Health Ministry has reported 167 Palestinian deaths as a result of Israeli gunfire in the West Bank this year. The IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] operation has mostly focused on the northern West Bank, where the Palestinian Authority is seen to have lost control amid the sprouting of armed groups such as the Nablus-based Lion's Den.

A clear majority of respondents told PCPSR [Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research] that they support the formation of armed groups that don't take orders from the PA and that are not part of the PA security forces, but numbers were higher in Gaza, where 84 percent of respondents backed the concept than in the West Bank, where 65 percent supported the idea. Israel has sought to work with the PA security forces to quash Lion's Den and the PA has worked to convince members of the armed group to turn themselves in, rather than be hunted down and killed by the IDF.

Nobel Peace Prize winners vetted by CIA

Monthly Review, 12/27/22–The Nobel Prize Committee has five judges, appointed by the Norwegian parliament, who are tasked with choosing Nobel Prize winners. But people are starting to wonder if there is a 6th Nobel Prize judge, not appointed by the Norwegian parliament, but by the CIA, who is tasked with making sure that winners of the coveted Nobel Peace Prize advance the agenda of U.S. policymakers.

Although the idea may seem far-fetched, this year's winners all have connections to a CIA offshoot, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). The NED was founded in the 1980s to promote propaganda and regime-change operations in the service of U.S. imperial interests. Allen Weinstein, the director of the research study that led to creation of the NED remarked in 1991: "A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA."

APHA

Forty years of communist struggle in public health

Rallies in 2018 and 2019 show borders and police are a health issue.

Communists in the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) have been organizing in the American Public Health Association (APHA) for over 40 years in order to expose how capitalism and racism decimate health and health care in the U.S., especially for Black and poor workers. We have drawn inspiration from early communists in struggles for public health, exemplified by "red 48er" Rudolph Virchow who in 1848 showed that the deaths in the typhus epidemic in Germany were related to poverty and living conditions and then joined the Revolution of 1848 against the German aristocracy. In that spirit, we have put forward the need for a communist revolution while presenting CHALLENGE, holding annual PLP-led breakfasts or forums, writing and distributing annual analyses of capitalism and health, and participating in many sections and caucuses. Together with our friends, we have led yearly demonstrations inside and outside the conference and successfully put forward resolutions against racism, fascism, and war. Today we fight the Covid-19 epidemic and point out how it has the same root causes as HIV/AIDS (see CHALLENGE, 12/14/22). Highlights of these years of struggle point the way towards building a communist-led mass movement to topple capitalism and ensure better working-class health through communism!

1979 - Protesting closing of New York City hospitals

At the APHA conference in New York City in 1979, the opening session was dramatically interrupted: "Hey Hey, ho ho, Racist Koch has got to go!" rang out as PLP members charged the stage with banners and threw eggs at Mayor Ed Koch who had been invited to open the conference. He had the audacity to welcome public health workers to New York City while closing city hospitals that served Black and Latin communities, who themselves had been fighting back for months. Three comrades including a doctor were arrested but people on the streets cheered us and donated to the Party. Racist closures of city hospitals in NYC and many other underserved areas have continued throughout the years leading to the mass death and overcrowding that was seen during the AIDS epidemic and now with Covid-19. The capitalist policies of cutting back and kicking people out of hospital beds mean record profits for insurers and death for the working class. At APHA, PLP members have frequently presented examples of how rationing in services devalues and kills workers, a concept Friedrich Engels termed "social murder."

Attacking eugenics then and now

Racist ideology and policies undermine health care and have a long history of academic justification. Since the days of chattel slavery, the U.S. ruling class has labeled Black workers as inferior and Black rebels as diseased. "Drapetomania" was the supposed illness that led enslaved Africans to es-

Continued on page 4

NEXT DEADLINE

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is the **Friday night of January 13**.

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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